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Monday, April 7, 2014 www.metro.us | t:MetroPhilly | f:MetroPhilly

Girl, 11, accidentally shot dead by brother, 2

Investigating. Police said an unknown adult left a loaded .357 Magnum on the refrigerator in the home, where the siblings got a hold of it. **Another shooting.** An 11-year-old boy was shot on Sunday. PAGE 04

THEATER, WHIZ WIT

PAGE 15

"Down Past Passyunk" is a play at InterAct Theatre Company based on Geno's 2006 "Speak English" controversy. / KATHRYN RAINES

Andy Garcia, finally a mob boss

PAGE 19

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1 NEWS

Local Tweet

"Phillies actually postponed the home opener so they can recover from that a— beating."

Nice theory, @mikedonapel. But we think it was because of the weather.

Top 3

What's trending online at Metro.us

1. 'VIDEO: 20 men get Brazilian waxes, scream like babies'
2. 'Lego replica of Fenway Park captured in time-lapse video'
3. 'UConn fans trump Kentucky fans, because fire extinguishers are a riot'

'Dump the losers?' Schools debated at edu conference

School reform. A national conference of education brains came to Philly this weekend, but local schools were discussed as well.

Academics, teachers and Ivy League scholars from around the country are in the final days of the American Educational Research Association's annual conference.

But the research conference turned somewhat testy during "The Landscape of Education Reform in Philadelphia," where a comment about "dumping the losers" — referring to low-performing schools — was made by Philadelphia School Partnership Executive Director Mark Gleason.

In context, Gleason was describing the "portfolio model" of school evaluations, named after the idea of a stocks portfolio.

"As you close the lowest performers, you're slowly raising the bar. So that's what portfolio is, as Paul [Socolar, Philadelphia Notebook editor] described it — you keep dumping the losers, and over time you create a higher bar for what we expect from our schools," Gleason said.

Superintendent William Hite also spoke and seemed to respond to Gleason's wording of the issue.

"I could not disagree more with some of the comments about particularly how we think about this work," Hite said.

Helen Gym, a leader of Parents United, who saw the talk, also criticized Gleason's comments.

Quoted

"They're saying nobody in North Philly, Germantown or Pennsport has the right to a public school. You need to move out, pay for private or go charter."
Gym

"The 'losers' comment shocked a lot of people," Gym said. "It's not how you think about schools. ... Are they losers, or are they simply in need of a different metric?

"You're not thinking about a child in terms of what they need, but you're thinking about them in terms of test scores."

Gleason later apologized for the comment, but pointed out that he was repeating the words of Socolar, who had spoken previously.

"It's an unacceptably inflammatory phrase and I shouldn't have used it," Gleason said.

But Gleason stood by his comments, and his later comment that "schools don't have the right to exist."

"The basic right of public education is the right of every student to a good education, it's not the right of a school to exist," Gleason said.

"Nobody wants to close schools. But what makes me upset, and what makes a lot of people upset is that we have students going to schools that are not serving them well."

Portfolio strategy

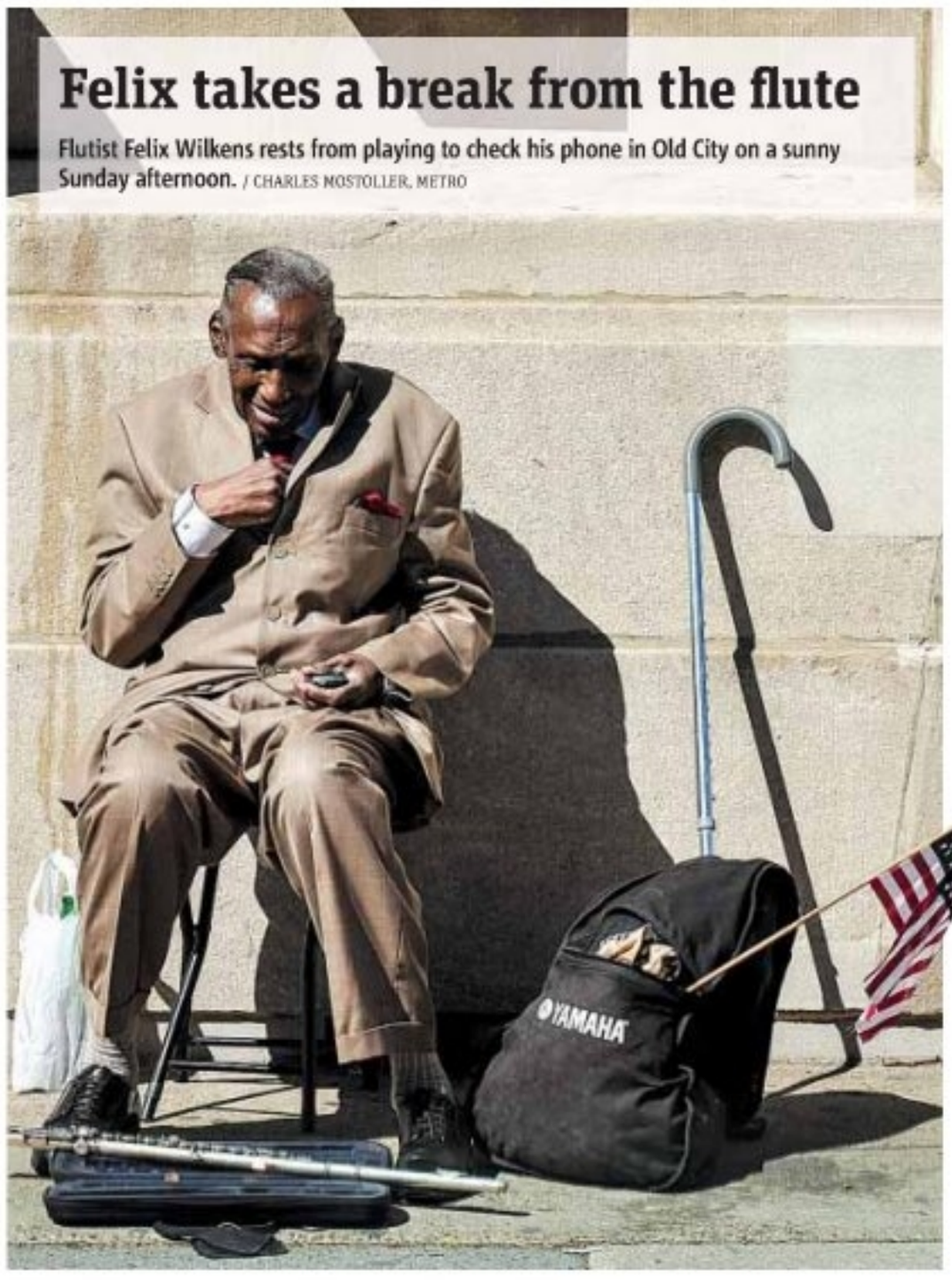
"Portfolio" means looking at public, private, parochial and charter schools together.

- As Socolar defined it, "The term is borrowed from Wall Street. You're going to hang onto the successful companies in your stock portfolio, and you dump the losers."
- Gym questioned "portfolio" logic.
- "They close down schools in communities, you're just shifting around students. They don't move on to better schools," she said.

SAM NEWHOUSE
@scnewhouse
sam.newhouse@metro.us

Felix takes a break from the flute

Flutist Felix Wilkens rests from playing to check his phone in Old City on a sunny Sunday afternoon. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO



Pay hike? SEPTA says union won't budge

As SEPTA continues negotiations with TWU Local 234, on Sunday night it was announced that an offer from SEPTA was left on the table all weekend.

SEPTA says it offered union workers a two-year contract with a 2 percent wage hike the first year and a 2.75 percent increase the second year. The agreement would ask union workers to give an additional 1 percent toward health insurance.

Since Friday, there has been no counteroffer or response, SEPTA said.

"We were ready to sign a deal limited to those terms. But the union refused," said SEPTA spokeswoman Jerri Williams.

TWU represents 5,000 SEPTA employees. The deadline for negotiations was midnight Sunday. SAM NEWHOUSE

TWU response

"SEPTA has been playing hardball today, saying TWU members are overpaid and must contribute more to health insurance, even though SEPTA managers pay one third as much as our members for their pensions, but get three times as much when they retire!"

Collision

Man faces DUI charges for fatal I-95 crash

Gabriel Sanchez, 20, of Georgia, will face DUI charges after a crash early Sunday morning about 3 a.m. on I-95 near the Broad Street exit that killed another driver.

Sanchez was driving a 2007 Nissan Armada and struck the back of 25-year-old Aaron Carbajal's 2007 Volkswagen Jetta. A passenger in Sanchez's vehicle was hospitalized. METRO

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Bloody weekend.
Cops probe shootings of two 11-year-olds

An 11-year-old boy was shot in the back Sunday afternoon in North Philadelphia and brought to Temple University Hospital, one day after an 11-year-old girl in Mantua was killed by an accidental firing of a .357 Magnum by her 2-year-old brother.

As of press time, no arrests had been made in either incident.

The North Philadelphia shooting occurred on the 1500 block of North Gratz Street just before 4 p.m. Sunday. The child was reportedly hit by shots from a blue Mercury Grand Marquis, which then sped away. Police believe the child was accidentally caught in the crossfire between two shooters, reports say.

Meanwhile, police are investigating the shooting death of Jamara Stevens, 11. Jamara was reportedly in a bedroom at her home on the 3800 block of Wallace Street on Saturday just before 10 a.m. when the deadly accident occurred.

An unknown adult reportedly left the loaded Magnum in the house, which Jamara and her three siblings, ages 14, 7 and 2, were playing with in a bedroom, when somehow the 2-year-old allegedly fired the gun.

SAM NEWHOUSE

Separate shootings

Jamara Stevens, 11, was pronounced dead at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia after a bullet wound through her right arm pierced her chest on Saturday about 10 a.m.

- About 3:45 p.m. on Sunday, an 11-year-old boy in North Philadelphia was shot in the hip.

So shaken as we are, so wan with care

Eighteen people tried out Sunday in Old City for a 100-person Shakespearean battle scene that will take place this summer at Clark Park during performances of "Henry IV."

CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

South Jersey

Police seize 133 packs of heroin

The Pine Hill Police Department in South Jersey arrested six people and seized 133 packets of heroin, paraphrenalia, crack cocaine, marijuana, methamphetamine, methadone, Oxycodone, 87 buspirone pills, syringes and more from a home on Woodrow Road.

Arrested were Curtis Casacarino, 43, Joshua Clark, 36, and Jennifer L. Reighn, 33, who all resided at the home. They were charged with manufacturing, possession and intent to distribute.

Idalia Mathes, 46, Raul Castillo, 43, and Candice Carr, 31, were charged with loitering with the purpose to obtain a controlled dangerous substance.

They were released on summons pending court appearances.

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Independent Insight

MATTHEW M. TURNER

Matthew M. Turner is a columnist for Metro Philadelphia. You can reach him at matthewmturner@hotmail.com.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author.

Years after his controversial defense of waterboarding, John Yoo stood by his decision recently, claiming the Constitution was still on his side — and spying on Americans is OK, too.

Yoo, a Philadelphia native and former deputy assistant attorney general, spoke at Drexel University last weekend to discuss his role in what has become known as the "torture memos" — the legal documentation used to defend former President George W. Bush's use of waterboarding and other controversial enhanced interrogation techniques, which have since been criticized as forms of torture.

Yoo said he was still firmly in support of the precedents set by the justice department he was part of — and said he would do it again.

Critics, myself included, believe Yoo's actions were little more than a rubber stamp for an out-of-control president who was riding high on the War on Terror hysteria. Yoo, and others, would like Americans to believe that waterboarding is constitutional, but really all he is doing is defending unlimited power. It doesn't take a Yale law degree to understand the basics of the Constitution.

Quoted

Critics, myself included, believe Yoo's actions were little more than a rubber stamp for an out-of-control president who was riding high on the War on Terror hysteria.

If you forget the kind of torture that was in full swing during this time, go look for yourself at the pictures of naked detainees stacked in piles at Abu Ghraib prison and ask yourself whether that is the liberty and freedom described so carefully in the Bill of Rights.

Bush's actions (and, yes, President Obama, too) have set a dangerous precedent that still affects American politics today. Yoo showed his true colors at the Drexel conference when he also defended NSA spying, saying third-party phone records have no Constitutional protection.

The War on Terror hyperbole and terror level threats may have dwindled since Bush left office, but Yoo has reminded us that the powers that were gained have not been relinquished by our current president.

When Obama signed the National Defense Authorization Act in 2012, he did not firmly stand against the out-of-control power to imprison an American without trial, although he did speak up against it.

In my view, these powers mark the most dangerous decision of our era and the future of our country. What we need now more than ever is an Edward R. Murrow moment. "We must remember that conviction depends on evidence and due process of law," Murrow said. "And remember we are not descended from fearful men. Not from men who feared to write and speak, and defend the causes that were in the moment unpopular."

This too, is not a time for silence.

Sentenced

Man gets prison in attempted kidnapping

A judge sentenced Carlos Figueroa-Fagot to up to 34 years in prison for the attempted kidnapping of a 10-year-old.

In 2012, Figueroa-Fagot pulled his car up to a 10-year-old girl and her 2-year-old brother on Lee Street in South Philadelphia. He then exited his car, picked up the young girl and tried to carry her back as her brother screamed. The girl broke free, grabbed her brother and ran away. Figueroa-Fagot then fled, police said. He had been convicted in 2013. METRO

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Allegheny mom drowns two sons

'Crazy voices.'
The woman told police she held down the boys in a water-filled tub.

A 6-year-old boy whose mother has been charged in holding him and his younger brother underwater, drowning his younger brother, has died from his injuries, the Allegheny County medical examiner's office said.

Daniel Schlemmer died four days after investigators found him and his 3-year-old brother, Luke, unconscious on the floor of a bathroom inside their home in McCandless, north of Pittsburgh.

The boys' mother, former teacher Laurel Michelle Schlemmer, had already been charged with the murder of Luke and with the attempted murder of Daniel, who had been on life support until he died Saturday.

Schlemmer, 40, called 911 last Tuesday and said her two boys might have drowned in the bathtub, police said. She later admitted to detectives she sat on the boys in the water-filled tub after hearing "crazy voices."

A third son, age 7, was at school at the time. Schlemmer also told investigators she thought she could be a better mother to her older child if the other two were not around, according to the complaint.

At a court hearing last week, a judge ordered psychiatric evaluations for Schlemmer, who was being held without bail. She has not yet entered a plea in the case. REUTERS

The mother's history

Court records have surfaced showing that Schlemmer has been in trouble in the past with the treatment of her children.

- In 2009, she was given a citation for leaving a toddler unattended in a parked car where temperatures reached 112 degrees.
- The child was not hurt.

All's fair in sunshine and war reenactments

Civil War reenactors practice handling their rifles at the annual United States Color Troops weekend at Fort Mifflin on Sunday. Antoine Randolph Watts, inset, is dressed as Jacob Clement White Jr.

CHARLES MOSTOLLER , METRO

Foul play

Woman shot six times

A woman, 27, was shot six times in the back and side on the 1200 block of W. Erie Avenue about 9:30 a.m. Sunday. She was driven to Temple University Hospital by an unknown person. No arrests have been made. METRO

Competition

Let them eat cake

Dessert fanatics will sample creations from professional pastry chefs and student bakers tonight in the Northeast's largest cake competition.

It's the 10th anniversary of Let Them Eat Cake. The theme is Fantasy Weddings. The judging will be held tonight at the DoubleTree Hilton on Broad Street. Guests will sample food, hear live music and get to meet celebrity chefs Marc and Benny, and John Moeller, a former White House chef.

Proceeds benefit City of Hope. METRO

Freebies

Saturday is Give Kids Sight Day

Uninsured and underinsured kids can get free eye screenings and two free pairs of eyeglasses this Saturday for Give Kids Sight Day.

All kids under 18 will be examined (first come, first served) from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. No appointments are necessary. Registration is at the Hamilton Building at Thomas Jefferson University on 10th and Locust streets. Sponsors include PCCY, Wills Eye Hospital, Eagles Youth Partnership, TFU, Visionworks and the First Hospital Foundation. METRO

Gone

Christie aide leaves

Colin Reed, a spokesman for N.J. Gov. Chris Christie, has left to work on the U.S. Senate campaign of Scott Brown in New Hampshire, according to reports. Reed had been in that post for a year. METRO

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Ships try to verify potential 'pings'

Flight MH370. More planes and ships sent to assist search near Perth.

Chinese and Australian ships hunting for a missing Malaysia Airlines jetliner have picked up separate acoustic signals in different parts of a vast Indian Ocean search area and are trying to verify whether one could be from the plane's black box recorders.

Australian search authorities said on Sunday a Chinese patrol vessel, the Haixun 01, had picked up a fleeting "ping" signal twice in recent days in waters west of Perth, near where investigators believe Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 went down on March 8.

Australia's HMAS Ocean Shield had reported a separate "acoustic event" some 300 nautical miles away. The Ocean Shield is carrying sophisticated U.S. Navy equipment designed to pick up signals sent from the black boxes, which may hold the key to why the aircraft ended up thousands of kilometers off course.

"We are treating each of them seriously. We need to ensure before we leave any of those areas that this does not have any connection with MH370," retired Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston, head of the Australian agency coordinating the operation, told a media conference in Perth.

A black box detector deployed by the Haixun 01 picked up the signal with a frequency of 37.5kHz per second — the same as emitted by flight recorders — at about 25 degrees south and 101 degrees east, Xinhua reported on Saturday.

Australian search authorities said such a signal would be consistent with a black box, but both they and Xinhua stressed there was no conclusive evidence linking it to the Boeing 777. REUTERS

An Australian Air Force Orion joins in the hunt for the missing plane in the Indian Ocean on Sunday. / GETTY IMAGES

Quoted

"The 37.5kHz is the specific frequency that these locator pingers operate on."

Anish Patel president of Florida-based Dukane Seacom, which made the black box locator.

Defense. US, in nod to Tokyo, to send more ships to Japan

The United States moved on Sunday to reassure Tokyo over its mounting security concerns, saying it would send more missile defense ships to Japan following North Korean launches, and use a high-level trip to warn China against abusing its "great power."

Japan has watched with alarm in recent weeks as North Korea carried out a series of missile launches, including firing two medium-range missiles capable of hitting the U.S. ally.

Tokyo has also voiced growing anxiety over China's military buildup and increasingly assertive behavior in a territorial dispute over East China Sea islands. REUTERS

'Specific threat'

US cautions citizens against travel via Baghdad airport

The U.S. Embassy in Iraq has cautioned its citizens against travelling via Baghdad airport through April 8 due to information regarding a "specific threat" to security, ahead of elections later this month.

The statement said embassy personnel were prohibited from using Baghdad International Airport "at this time" and urged American citizens all across Iraq to remain on alert.

No further details were given. REUTERS

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Pacific Ocean. Navy ship reaches sailboat carrying sick baby

A U.S. Navy frigate reached a sailboat in the Pacific Ocean on Sunday and were preparing to rescue a seriously ill 1-year-old girl and her family, the Coast Guard said.

The USS Vandegrift and its crew "would determine the best possible course of action" for rescuing the family from the crippled sailboat about 1,000 miles off Mexico's Pacific coast, said Coast Guard Petty Officer Barry Bena.

Because of weather and other factors, Bena said he could not estimate how long it would take to transfer Eric and Charlotte Kaufman and their daughters Cora, 3, and Lyra, 1, back to the U.S. mainland in California.

The Kaufman family, from San Diego, were on a cruise around the world on a 36-foot vessel called the Rebel Heart when the youngest child fell seriously ill with a fever and rash, prompting her parents to send a satellite distress call to the Coast Guard on Thursday. REUTERS

Senator McCaskill

GM ignition switch case could lead to criminal charges

General Motors should make restitution to victims' families and face criminal action if merited for the way it handled defective ignition switches that caused fatal auto accidents, Sen. Claire McCaskill said on Sunday.

McCaskill, as chairwoman of the Senate subcommittee on consumer protection and product safety, led a blistering round of questioning of GM CEO Mary Barra last week.

In an appearance on ABC's "This Week" show, McCaskill said GM now faced "a real moment of truth" as it pursues an internal investigation of the ignition switches and the automaker's response to the problem. REUTERS

Democrat Pelosi says former VP Dick Cheney set tone for CIA interrogation practices

Post-9/11. Critics say the CIA's detention and interrogation practices amounted to torture.

Democratic House Leader Nancy Pelosi said on Sunday that former Vice President Dick Cheney "set a tone" for the interrogation and detention programs conducted by the Central Intelligence Agency in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks.

Pelosi said she believed that Cheney, an influential figure in security policy under former President George W. Bush, was proud of the CIA's actions during the Republican administration.

"Many people in the CIA are so patriotic, they protect our country in a way to avoid conflict and violence. ... I think [Cheney] is proud of it." Pelosi said on CNN's "State of the Union" program.

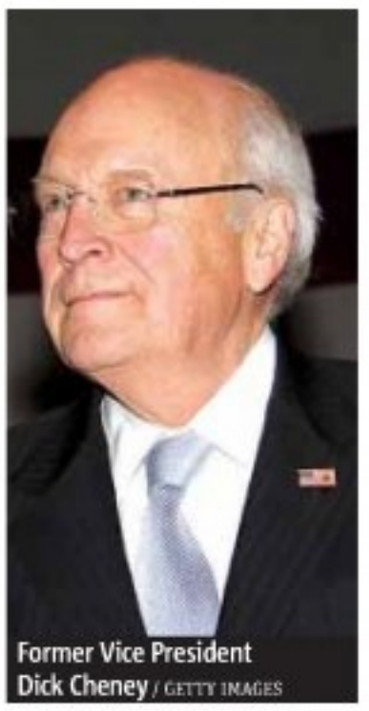
Pelosi's comments came after the Senate Intelligence Committee voted last week to declassify and release portions of a report on an investigation into the CIA's detention and interrogation practices after the Sept. 11 attacks.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, Democratic chairwoman of the panel, said the report exposes brutality and chronicles "a stain on our history that must never be allowed to happen again."

Congressional and intelligence sources have said the report strongly condemns now-abandoned techniques such as waterboarding, or simulated drowning, and concludes they did not produce significant counterterrorism breakthroughs.

It is expected to be weeks or more before any of the document is cleared for release. REUTERS

Democratic House Leader Nancy Pelosi / GETTY IMAGES


Former Vice President Dick Cheney / GETTY IMAGES

Quoted

"I do believe that during the Bush-Cheney administration, that Vice President Cheney set a tone and an attitude for the CIA."

Pelosi said on CNN's "State of the Union" program.

GOP response

Some Republicans have criticized the investigation.

- Republican House Intelligence Committee Chairman Mike Rogers, responding to Pelosi, warned against politicizing the report ahead of November's midterm elections and said it was not "the Holy Grail."
- "That politicizes this in a way that's horribly counterproductive and likely to lead people to the wrong conclusions," he said on CNN.
- He said he had "real misgivings" about the investigation, which some Republicans have criticized as partisan.

REPUBLICAN HOUSE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MIKE ROGERS
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Washington state

Blast at site casts spotlight on natural gas safety

An unexplained blast last week at a liquefied natural gas (LNG) facility in Washington state, which injured workers, forced an evacuation and raised alarm about a potentially large second explosion, could focus attention on the risk of storing massive gas supplies near population centers.

The incident last Monday at Williams Co. Inc.'s massive gas storage site is a rare blemish on the safety records of the dozens of LNG plants and storage sites around the country, including towering tanks in packed neighborhoods of New York City, and near Boston. Energy industry experts and opponents of new LNG plants alike said it may spur debate about safe handling of gas for cities increasingly reliant on the clean-burning fuel. REUTERS

New research

Stress during pregnancy may cause asthma

Stress during pregnancy brought on by events like divorce, job loss or death of a loved one appears to be linked to an increased risk of asthma and eczema among children.

These findings, according to Dr. Petra Arck, could "allow clinicians to evaluate future asthma risk in unborn children using a simple life event assessment questionnaire."

Arck notes that although there are strong genetic components to asthma, these alone do not help explain the unprecedented increase in recent years. REUTERS

ASTHMA IN CHILDREN
GETTY IMAGES

In tornado-prone areas, some better prepared than others for twisters

Rebuilding. Moore, the town hit by a huge storm in 2013, is still picking up the pieces.

Mayor Glenn Lewis of Moore gives President Barack Obama a tour of a tornado-affected area in his city on May 26, 2013. / GETTY IMAGES

The mayor of Moore, Okla., a municipality twice devastated by tornados in the last 15 years, is fixated on garage doors, knowing they are key to protecting the city from even more damage during this year's tornado season.

Moore will be operating this year under new building codes, arguably some of the most stringent in the nation, to protect people and structures from deadly winds.

In all new construction starting this month, garage doors must be insulated and storm-resistant, roofs must have sheathing to keep them in place, and structures must be better anchored and secured around their edges.

"Garage doors are the first to come off during a tornado. Once the garage door comes off, the roof comes off," Mayor Glenn Lewis said in an interview last week.

Many buildings met the new codes even before they took effect, because many people know just how high the stakes are when it comes to twisters. REUTERS

Deaths

24

In May 2013, 24 people were killed and 240 injured when a tornado devastated Moore, a city of about 55,000 south of Oklahoma City. Some 2,400 buildings were damaged or destroyed.

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Buried treasure

Dig planned to unearth millions of 1980s game cartridges

Searchers, accompanied by documentary filmmakers, plan to scour a New Mexico landfill in an attempt to unearth a legendary dump of millions of unwanted "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial" video game cartridges rumored to have been buried at the site in the early 1980s, organizers said on last week.

The suspected entombment in the small city of Alamogordo has become a point of intrigue for gamers over the past three decades, as the product tie-in to the classic 1982 movie "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial" was a mammoth flop, remembered as having contributed to a sudden collapse of the video game industry in its early years. REUTERS

Friends and family of Linda McPherson attend a memorial service for her. / GETTY IMAGES

First Wash. mudslide victim funerals held

Not forgotten.
A custodian and a librarian were memorialized.

A school custodian killed in Washington state's mudslide was described as a tough-minded animal lover and a popular librarian as mourners gathered over the weekend in the first of a series of services for the over two dozen dead.

About 250 people crammed into a golf course clubhouse in Arlington, Wash., for the funeral of Summer Raffo, 36, a school custodian and specialist in hoof care for horses, just a few miles from the site where a torrent of mud swept her car off Highway 530 on March 22.

Raffo, the fifth of 14 siblings, was later pulled from the vehicle by a brother.

"She was tough, with so many brothers," Barak Pearson, who led her funeral service, told mourners.

He described her as shy, but a loyal friend.

"She liked to be outdoors," he said. "She loved animals. She was hard-working. She was dependable." REUTERS

Linda McPherson

Another service was held in nearby Darrington for Linda McPherson, 69, who was found dead in the debris of her home.

- Her husband survived when the mudslide engulfed the dwelling along with about three dozen other properties on the outskirts of the community of Oso.
- As the town's longtime head librarian, she played a key role in educating thousands of children through the years, said Peter Selvig, who served with her on the Darrington School Board.
- "She was a sweet, mellow, gentle woman," Selvig said.

By the numbers

30

The funerals came two weeks after the disaster that left at least 30 people dead, even as searchers look for more bodies.

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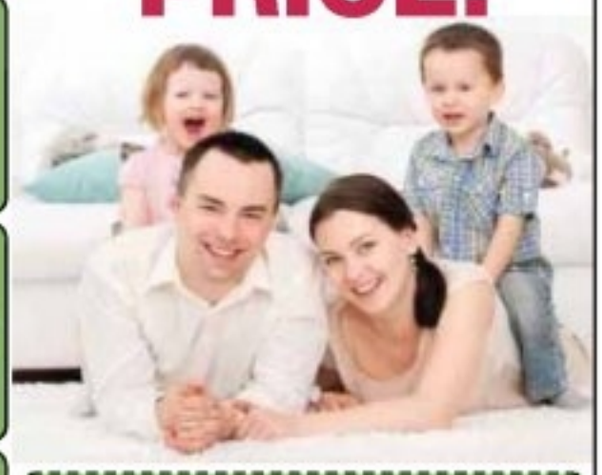
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Israel. Netanyahu vows retaliation after Palestine treaty move

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu promised retaliatory measures on Sunday after Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas made unilateral moves toward statehood.

Netanyahu did not immediately specify the action he would take and said Israel remained willing to press on with U.S.-brokered peace talks, but not "at any price."

"They will achieve a state only through direct negotiations and not through empty proclamations or unilateral moves, which will only push a peace accord further away," Netanyahu told his cabinet at its weekly meeting.

On Tuesday, Abbas signed 15 international treaties, including the Geneva Conventions on the conduct of war and occupations, a defiant assertion of statehood that surprised Washington as it was pushing both sides to continue negotiations beyond an April 29 deadline.

Palestinians said the step was a response to Israel's failure to fulfil its pledge to free some two dozen Palestinian prisoners. Israel said it first wanted a Palestinian commitment to keep talks going beyond the end of the month.

REUTERS

Disconnect

In a possible first sign of Israel's measures, the Palestinian telecommunications minister said Israel had told telephone company Wataniya Palestine Mobile it would no longer be allowed to bring equipment into the Gaza Strip, where it plans to operate a network.

Activists storm Ukraine building

Dozens of pro-Russia protesters in the eastern Ukrainian city of Donetsk stormed the regional government building on Sunday and hung a Russian flag. The hometown of pro-Russian former president Viktor Yanukovich, Donetsk has seen tensions rise, as they have across mainly Russian-speaking eastern Ukraine, since his ouster and the installation of a pro-European government in Kiev. The east has remained a touchpoint for tensions between Ukraine and Russia, after Yanukovich fled from power and Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimean territory. Tensions have spilled over into the biggest confrontation between Russia and the West since the end of the Cold War. REUTERS / GETTY IMAGES

Libya

Mass strike paralyses Benghazi, airport closed

Public and private sector staff including oil workers went on strike in the Libyan port city of Benghazi on Sunday, protesting against worsening security and demanding the resignation of parliament whose mandate has expired.

Traffic at Benghazi's international airport was halted by the strike. As a result, a Turkish Airlines plane was turned away, according to state media.

Oil companies, universities and schools also closed, heeding a call by political groups for a day of "civil disobedience" to demand better security, witnesses said. Government forces have failed to improve security in the port city where car bombs and killings of police and army officers have become part of daily life. REUTERS

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2 CULTURE

Officially unofficial Letterman replacement suggestions

With David Letterman stepping down, various TV oracles indicate that Stephen Colbert is a top pick as a "Late Show" host, but we here at Metro think CBS can get a little more creative with its picks. Here's who we think should be on the short list.

Twitter feed

We check in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Chris Evans enjoys a good omen every now and then, Justin Bieber is back to work, Garry Shandling is having a rough week and Kirstie Alley is getting a little too attached.

@ChrisEvans: Releasing your film on Robert Downey Jr's birthday has to be a good sign.

@justinbieber: Studio life

@GarryShandling: There may be nothing sadder than a crying cheerleader.

@kirstiealley: Getting uber excited about our future together.. we're gonna have some fun YALL!!!

5 Chelsea Handler

OK, she's probably already on their short list. She's officially leaving E!, she's got a steady following and she's written some popular books. But CBS, ever the network of safe choices, may think she's a little too risque for their viewers' tastes. Be bold, CBS! Letterman wasn't the safe late night choice, and she'd be a worthy successor.

4 Patrick Stewart and Ian McKellen as co-hosts

No guests. Just Patrick Stewart and Ian McKellen continuing their campaign of adorable old dude friendship. Who wouldn't want to hear their take on the news of the day? Maybe they'll wear their matching bowler hats for the show. Forget "Late Show" as a title, Just call it "Ian McKellen and Patrick Stewart Are Friends and It's Awesome."

3 Aisha Tyler

Tyler has been making the rounds on basically every talk show since the '90s. She's funny, and to say she's overdue to host her own show is an understatement, but she's never been given a big enough stage. This could be her moment. The only downside: She might have to leave "Archer."

2 Tig Notaro

After her famous set at the Largo last year catapulted her into the nation's consciousness (who knew talking about cancer would be so funny?), Notaro would be an unexpected but exciting choice. Plus, she's totally unflappable, so no matter how weird Tom Cruise gets up there, she'd probably roll with it.

1

TO SEE VIDEO TESTIMONY ON WHY WE THINK THESE PEOPLE WOULD MAKE STELLAR REPLACEMENTS, BLIPP HERE.

Prince

Think about it. You'd watch it. He did a pretty solid job on "New Girl" recently, so the guy seems ready for prime time. And he could be his own bandleader. Would he be the world's weirdest interviewer? Fingers crossed.

THE WORD

Lisa Weidenfield takes on the world of gossip.

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William Zielinski is Nicky Grillo and Alex Keiper plays Sophia Grillo in "Down Past Passyunk." / KATHRYN RAINES

Theater. The Geno's "Speak English" controversy comes to the stage at InterAct.

When A. Zell Williams arrived in Philadelphia for the world premiere of his play "In a Daughter's Eyes" in 2011, he did what so many other visitors to the city had done before him: He headed down to South Philly for a cheesesteak. But when he arrived at Geno's Steaks, controversy had already become as enshrined in that location as the "Whiz wit." The infamous sign posted by owner Joey Vento telling visitors "This is America: When Ordering Please 'Speak English'" had been hanging in the landmark shop's window for five years.

"I was fascinated by the fact that we're in a politically interesting time in this country," Williams says. "In 2006 and 2007 there was a significant conservative swelling amongst Tea Party members and conservative Republicans. Fast-forward to Election Night 2012, when President Obama wins his second election, and you have conservative pundits saying Mitt Romney lost because he didn't do enough to reach out to Hispanic voters and voters of color.

"I thought what was going on in South Philly really mirrored what was going on nationally, where you have a lot of change coming and a lot of people who are not comfortable with that change."

The Geno's controversy became the seed for Williams' new play, "Down Past Passyunk," set in a fictional South Philly steak shop, in its world premiere production this month at InterAct Theatre Company. Williams was playwright-in-residence at InterAct for the politically oriented company's 2012-13 season, during which time he lived in South Philly and really got to know the neighborhood.

"I love places that retain an identity at a time when most downtown cities all seem the same," he says. "I like when I can go into a neighborhood and get a sense of its history."

SHAUN BRADY
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If you go

'Down Past Passyunk'

April 9-27
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www.interact theatre.org

Community

Set in South Philly

Much of Williams' past work has dealt with conflicts of race, class, religion and violence in the country, so Joey Vento's story offered an opportunity to look at some of those ideas from a new perspective. InterAct, he says, was the perfect home for the play, and not just because the piece is set in their backyard.

"There are unfortunately very few companies that are willing to go as far as InterAct is in terms of challenging their audience members," he says. "It's hard to walk into a community that you're not part of and say, 'I want to write a play about your audience members that might be controversial,' and have them do it."

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Comedy. This 'Seinfeld' writer's guide-to-life book isn't your average self-help read

Drawing on nearly four decades of a career in comedy, Carol Leifer has plenty of tips and tricks to offer in her new book, "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Crying." Part memoir, part guide to life and all funny, Leifer imparts lessons learned from her days as a "Seinfeld" scribe, among other gigs. She shared with us some of the advice she's accumulated.

Laugh your way to the top with the advice in "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Crying." / PROVIDED

If you're not failing, you're not doing something right

Any good long career has a lot of failure. Don't be afraid of failure — it's inevitable, and you learn the most from those low points. As any successful person will tell you, it's par for the course.

Keep your sour cream off the table

In other words, don't hold a grudge. Don't turn bitter when an opportunity doesn't pan out. Sour cream belongs in the fridge, not out in the open.

Tenacity will always make you a winner

Whatever job you're in or aspire to get, you'll never go wrong sharing your genuine enthusiasm with those involved and keeping tabs with folks you meet as you pursue your goals.

Embrace being in the minority

Being female is a tremendous advantage. The great thing about women is that we think differently than men. While working on "Seinfeld," I wrote an episode where Elaine thinks her manicurists are talking about her behind her back in Korean. It's doubtful that a man would have come up with that idea. Use what makes you different to your advantage.

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TV watch list

Someone should tell Booth he can see what the picture looks like as he's taking it if he flips the camera around. / JEFF LIPSKY/FOX

Drama

'Bones'

TV's most reliable "it's on while I'm doing something else" show takes a look at a murder connected to a medical marijuana dispensary. We mock, but we'll miss it someday when it finally shuffles off the air (in 30 years or so, since Fox keeps renewing it). **FOX, 8 PM.**

Sports

NCAA Championship game

Since everyone's bracket is totally busted at this point, you might as well watch this one for the actual enjoyment of watching a basketball game. Watch UConn take on Kentucky in the big final game. **CBS, 8 P.M.**

Variety

'In Performance at the White House: Women of Soul'

Yes, you should occasionally turn on PBS for programming besides your beloved "Downton." See greats Aretha Franklin and Patti LaBelle alongside newer acts like Janelle Monae and Ariana Grande. **PBS, 9 P.M.**

Late Night

'Tonight Show starring Jimmy Fallon'

This is your warning that Colin Firth will be on your television. Repeat, Colin Firth will be available for gawking at on TV. Here's hoping Fallon gets him to play one of their goofy games, which seems like a prime spot for some serious Firth. **NBC, 11:30 P.M.**

LISA WEIDENFELD

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JAMES CAGNEY BARKS HIS WAY THROUGH 'THE OKLAHOMA KID'

'The Oklahoma Kid'

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The Western is all but dead today, but it's such a colossal part of Golden Age Hollywood that it's hard to believe there was a period — the 1930s — when the eight major studios made almost none of them. After a few major bombs early in the decade, the major studios saw them as untouchable. But they thrived among the poverty row studios. By decade's end they were back and flourishing. Everyone was in on the act, from John Ford ("Stagecoach") to James Cagney, who donned a cowboy hat to bark his way through "The Oklahoma Kid."

Despite the promise of shifting Cagney from the mean streets to the Old West, Cagney's Kid isn't all menace. He's not a good guy, but he's not bad either. He's in between — a proto-Libertarian loner who very hesitantly becomes the savior to a rough town plagued by a villainous saloon keeper (Humphrey Bogart).

A motor-mouthed spark plug, he's the fastest gun and mouth in the West, and he brings speed, comedy and a roughness to a genre that sometimes needs all three.

James Cagney heads out to the old west for "The Oklahoma Kid." / WARNER BROS.

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matt.prigge@metro.us

Also out

'I Am Divine'

$24.95

Born Harris Glenn Milstead, the actor known professionally as Divine, stormed his way through many a John Waters salvo before dying at only 42. Divine was enough of a force to deserve this, his very own life-spanning documentary.

Also out

'The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug'

The second of Peter Jackson's enlarged "Lord of the Rings" prequels is a bit more watchable than the first, which is to say it has a great deal less sickly hedgehogs.

'A Touch of Sin'

Chinese minimalist Jia Zhang-ke ("The World") heads into more traditional fiction territory with his latest, which features three stories of horrendous violence that still speak to his love for digging deep into what ails his home nation.

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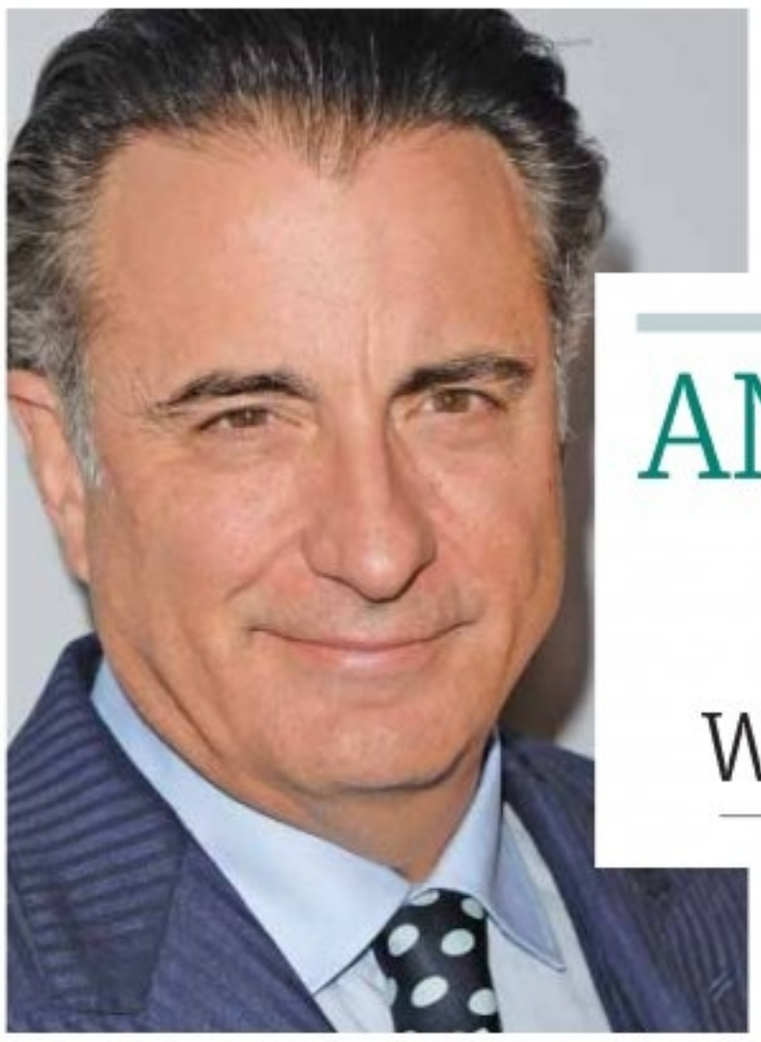

GETTY IMAGES

ANDY GARCIA

The actor plays a domesticated mafia kingpin in "Rob the Mob."

WHO'S THE BOSS?

Twenty-four years after "The Godfather: Part III," Andy Garcia has graduated to mob boss, playing real-life gangster Big Al in director Raymond De Felitta's "Rob the Mob." The true-life tale recounts the crime family's undoing at the hands to two unwitting small-time crooks (Michael Pitt and Nina Arianda).

Our culture continues to be drawn to organized crime stories.
I think it's part of a genre that all the generations have grown up with, if you look back to the days of James Cagney and Bogart. It's permeated the tapestry of American film. And then "The Godfather," obviously, was a pretty sensational book and film about [crime]. And between the "Godfather" films and "Goodfellas" and some of the other works that explored the Italian-American cinematic existence, it's a genre unto itself. The trick for Raymond is to see how he can cover this ground in a way that has not been covered before — seeing the mob in decline. And this really happened. That family took a big hit because of what happened with these kids.

Was that part of the appeal for you, that it's based in fact?
It is a fascinating story, and the fact that it's true makes it even more fascinating, you know? If it was made up it would still be interesting, but the fact that it actually happened gives it another layer to it. It adds an authenticity to the story that makes it unique. So that was one thing, but for me it was really more about the relationship I had with Raymond.

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In the home

You're playing a very domesticated crime boss.
We wanted to try to do something when we started to develop the character, to try to make a character who was not, hopefully, been visited before. So we ended up being more interested in his domestic side. Ray and the writers and I all collaborated on this arc, which wasn't in the original draft.

It's a nice counterpoint to John Gotti, who's criticized in the film for being too flashy.
This is a throwback to the guy who doesn't want to be noticed, you know? He's just a guy in the neighborhood who has a food business. That's akin to the old Meyer Lansky types, where people know what he's about, but he's just an old, retired Jewish man who walks his dog up and down Collins Avenue.

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Captain America drowns Noah

Box office. America once again embraces the latest Marvel superhero solo outing.

Chris Evans' do-gooder battled his way to the top of the charts with "Captain America: The Winter Soldier." / ZADE ROSENTHAL

"Captain America: The Winter Soldier," the sequel to Marvel's 2011 film about the red, white and blue superhero, smashed its way to $96.2 million in weekend ticket sales, setting a new record for an April release and speeding past last week's winner, "Noah."

The film, which stars Chris Evans as a scrawny WWII reject given superpowers from an experimental serum, easily exceeded the April take for the racing movie "Fast Five," which collected $86.2 million in ticket sales in April 2011. "Captain America" also scored the biggest opening weekend of 2014.

"Noah," starring Russell Crowe as the biblical figure, was second with $17 million in sales from Friday to Sunday, and has collected $72.3 million in overall domestic sales since opening last week, according to studio estimates.

The dystopian action film "Divergent" was third with $13 million, for a total of $114 million since its March 21 release in U.S. and Canadian theaters.

Fourth for the weekend with sales of $7.7 million was the independently released Christian drama "God's Not Dead," which continued its impressive run despite being panned by critics.

Only two of 10 reviewers liked the film, according to Rotten Tomatoes, although 86 percent of those who saw it told the site they liked it.

"The Grand Budapest Hotel" rounded out the top five, taking in $6.3 million. Starring Ralph Fiennes as a scheming concierge and directed by Wes Anderson, the film started slowly, playing in only four theaters on March 7, and has grown steadily. REUTERS

Top 5 earners

1. 'Captain America: The Winter Soldier' $96.2 million
2. 'Noah' $17 million
3. 'Divergent' $13 million
4. 'God's Not Dead' $7.7 million
5. 'The Grand Budapest Hotel' $6.3 million

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5 Truths about running

Train. Inspired to get moving this spring? Here's what to know.

If you're thinking this is the year you take up running, don't let fear stop you: "I think there are a lot of misconceptions," says Dr. Vijay Vad, the author of "The New Rules of Running." "Excessive running can be pretty bad for your joints, but moderate running is actually good for you." Vad collaborated with two-time NYC marathon champ Tom Fleming to come up with rules that all runners — beginners and elites — need to know. Ready to pound the pavement? Read on for their five essentials:

You don't have to go solo: Grab a partner for support. / DIGITAL VISION

1 There's no one way to run. Your form is specific to your body, so don't worry about what you look like out there. There are, however, ways to improve the form that's specific to your body. Every runner can benefit, for example, from using the arms more and pumping through the hips.

2 Speed is strength in disguise. If you train at a pace that you can easily maintain for a stretch of time, you increase your fitness level and, therefore, your ability to go faster. "I never talk about speed," Fleming says of his first days coaching a new athlete. "I might talk about endurance and progression. [Speed] eventually comes gradually through you building confidence in yourself." Dr. Vad adds that if it's your first race — be it a 5K or your first marathon — you shouldn't even focus on the clock. "You should be in it just to finish it," he says.

DR. VIJAY VAD

TOM FLEMING

3 You must learn to endure. Fleming says training your body to be on its feet for longer stretches of time can help you get ready for races, especially long-distance ones, because they improve your aerobic capacity (the amount of oxygen you can use in one minute). He recommends "a consistent, gradual increase of total long run workouts over a period of four to six months."

4 Hydrating and eating properly stimulate recovery. "Hydration and nutrition really improve your performance and enhance recovery," says Dr. Vad. So what's best? Hydrating before, after and even during your workout. And don't wait until you're already thirsty; that means you're already dehydrated. About 30 minutes after you finish running, go for a mix of protein and carbs. Fleming likes pretzels and peanut butter, or straight-up chocolate milk. The night before a race, don't go crazy on the carbs, they say. You don't want to overdo it.

5 Rest is essential for recovery and improved performance. The No. 1 mistake newbie runners make, the authors say, is overdoing it — that's how you get injured. But rest is not just about days off. Adequate rest also means sleeping enough to rebuild the muscle fibers that tear when you run (that rebuilding is what makes you stronger and faster). "You need deep, REM sleep for repair," Dr. Vad says.

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Stats

115.6M

Mizuno and the University of North Carolina teamed up for a study to explore the question: What if everybody ran? They found that running could have big effects at a macro-level: There'd be 115,600,000 fewer weekly hours watching TV, 48,081,000 fewer cigarettes smoked daily and a $47,212,387,500 increase in GDP. Just a few more reasons get out there!

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If you're just getting off the couch:

Reebok Skyscrape walking shoes

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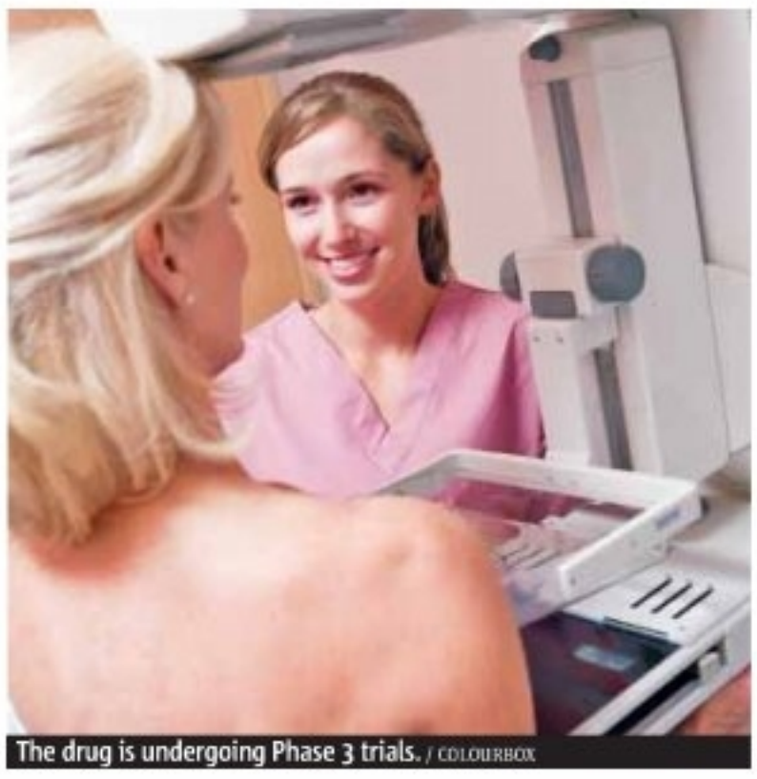
Breast cancer treatment. Pfizer drug said to be a 'breakthrough'


The drug is undergoing Phase 3 trials. / COLOURBOX

Pfizer's experimental breast cancer drug in a clinical trial nearly doubled the amount of time patients lived without their disease getting worse, but overall survival was not yet shown to be statistically significant, researchers said.

The Phase 2 study, which involved women with the most common form of breast cancer, found that those treated with hormone drug letrozole plus Pfizer's palbociclib lived for an average of 20.2 months before their cancer progressed, compared with 10.2 months for patients given letrozole alone.

The FDA has granted "breakthrough" status for palbociclib. Palbociclib is viewed as one of the company's most important experimental drugs that some analysts believe could eventually claim annual sales of more than $5 billion, if approved.

The pill, which targets proteins involved in cell division, was trial tested in post-menopausal women with locally advanced or newly diagnosed breast cancer that had spread.

Pfizer is conducting Phase 3 trials in breast cancer patients as well as earlier-stage trials in other types of cancer. REUTERS

This week in health news

Gratitude might be the key to happiness

BE GRATEFUL, FEEL BETTER. COLOURBOX

Location of study: United States
Study subjects: 246 people
Results: New research is echoing what some have been saying for years: Money doesn't buy happiness. According to researchers, people who are materialistic are less likely to be satisfied with their lives. Experts partially attribute this to the fact that materialists have a harder time being grateful for what they have. People who are material-focused are also more likely to have low self-esteem and to be less satisfied in their relationships. Those who are grateful are more likely to be happy and to find meaning in life.
Significance: Researchers say their findings reinforce the "treadmill of consumption" theory. "That 2,500-square-foot house becomes the baseline for your desires for an even bigger house," study co-author Dr. James Roberts of Baylor University said in a statement. "We continue to purchase more and more stuff, but we don't get any closer to happiness. We simply speed up the treadmill."

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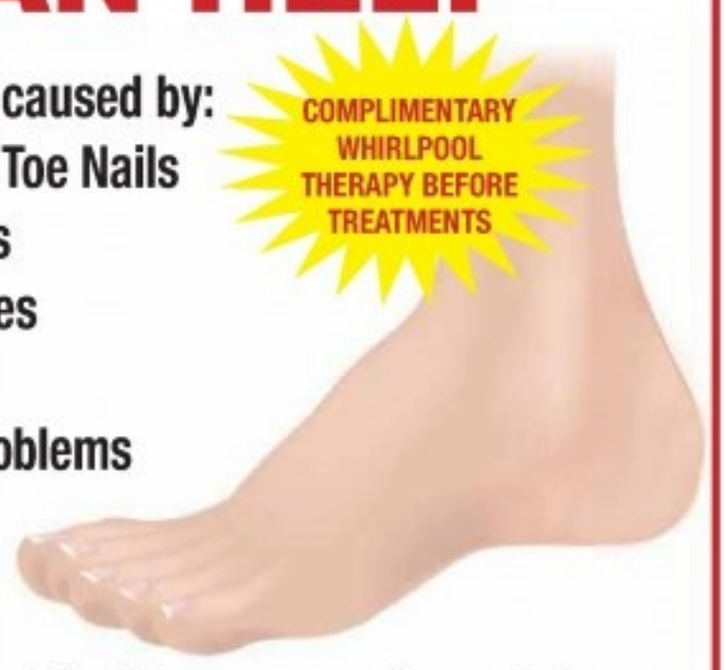
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Don't freak out, figure it out

Cap and gown. You can rise above that graduation pressure.

The career crunch after graduation can be high-pressure, but it doesn't mean you should lose your head. / HUNTSTOCK

As the final weeks of your college career approach, you might be cracking under the weight of so much stress. Your college days are about to be behind you, while the rest of your life lies ahead.

Feeling a bit aimless as the end of your last semester approaches? Marc Goldman, executive director of Yeshiva University's Career Center, says not to let that get you down. "I know that it's not an easy pill to swallow, but being negative or having self-esteem issues at this point of transition can only hurt a student's chances [of success] even more," says Goldman. Certainly Goldman is not the only one who recognizes the power of self-esteem.

The Jed Foundation is a nonprofit that specializes in college students' emotional health. Dr. Victor Schwartz, Jed Foundation's medical director, stresses the importance of reaching equilibrium at this formative point. "Find a balance of living in the moment and planning for your future," say Dr. Schwartz. "There are a lot of great resources at many schools. But you don't need [to have] it all figured out."

But remember, it's not too late to start blueprinting your future. "If a student feels lost and does not yet have a career direction," says Goldman, "he or she might consider meeting with a career counselor to assess [his or her] interests, skills, values and possible goals. It is never too late, but students approaching graduation do feel like it's crunch time."

And in some ways, it is crunch time, but stay focused on meeting your goals, utilize campus resources and don't forget to take deep breaths.

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Under pressure

Jane Miller is founder of JaneKnows.com, an advice site for graduates and young professionals. Her tips:

- Your first job out of school will not make or break your career, so don't be afraid. People change directions many times in their careers, so don't sweat the first job.
- Any job can build upon work ethic, leadership and results orientation, so don't be afraid to take a job for which you believe you are overqualified.
- It is natural to be freaked out. Be proud of the fact that you made it this far and are graduating.

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Dreaming big with Pixar

Book. The heroes of Pixar don't just come in the animated variety.

The heroes of "Toy Story 3" don't shy away from a challenge; neither does Ed Catmull, inset. / DISNEY PIXAR

Pixar's story is a little like the tales told in its films: Some kids with moxie who did things differently took a risk and won over the world. Each of Pixar's 14 computer-animated films has opened at No. 1; together they've grossed $8.5 billion worldwide. And, just like in a fairy tale, Pixar's story has a hero.

Ed Catmull, the president of both Walt Disney Animation Studios and Pixar Animation Studios, came to movies by way of science, with degrees in physics and computer science. In 1979, George Lucas brought him in to lead Lucasfilm's computer graphics division, which, in 1986, was purchased by Apple's Steve Jobs and renamed Pixar. The rest, as they say, is history. But without Catmull and his cofounders' forward-thinking managerial style and approach to growing a business, it might not have happened.

With the help of journalist Amy Wallace, Catmull has distilled his work ethos into an engaging book, "Creativity, Inc.," which will be published by Random House on Tuesday. It's part memoir, part storytelling and part business guide. Pixar fans will enjoy behind-the-scenes stories and trivia ("Monsters, Inc." was originally about a grown man dealing with frightening creatures no one else can see); business leaders will glean not just information but motivation, too.

Catmull's secret to success seems to be an unwavering dedication to looking for unknowns and dealing with what he finds. He focuses on preparing his team to deal with unexpected challenges when they're found, rather than trying to prevent them or, worse, pretending they aren't there. He believes in intense collaboration and listening to everyone on his team. To Pixar fans, it sounds familiar.

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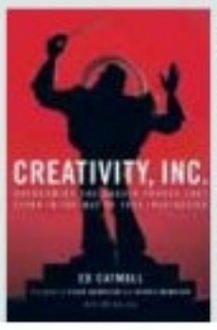
Big advice from Ed Catmull

- "If there are people in your organization who feel they are not free to suggest ideas, you lose. Do not discount ideas from unexpected sources."
- "There are many valid reasons why people aren't candid with one another in a work environment. Your job is to search for those reasons and then address them."
- "Do not fall for the illusion that by preventing errors, you won't have errors to fix. The truth is, the cost of preventing errors is often far greater than the cost of fixing them."
- "Change and uncertainty are part of life. Our job is not to resist but to recover when unexpected events occur."
- "Similarly, it is not the manager's job to prevent risks. It is the manager's job to make it safe to take them."
- "Failure isn't a necessary evil. It isn't evil at all. It is a consequence of doing something new."
- "Trust doesn't mean that you trust that someone won't screw up, it means you trust them when they do screw up."
- "Do not make stability a goal. Balance is more important than stability."
- "Making the product great is the goal. Don't confuse the process with the goal."



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Horoscope

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20. When an older relative or friend needs a hand, exhibit patience. Go the extra mile to help them out.

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21. A friend will be grateful for your empathy, and you will be able to offer helpful solutions. A key part of your popularity is your unselfish willingness to aid others.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20. Your work should be your top priority. Concentrate on finding the best possible way to complete your goals. Examine all your resources.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22. There is progress ahead if you assert yourself in the workplace. Show your employer how devoted and capable you are.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22. Be a leader, not a follower. You have unorthodox and original ideas that you should be sharing with others. People will be glad to come on board.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22. You will gain respect if you share your good will with your family and colleagues. Many organizations rely on volunteers for assistance.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22. Stay in the background and don't share your secrets. Someone may decide to stir up trouble by turning your words against you.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21. Shake up your routine by trying something new. Keep an open mind and take part in a pastime that will stimulate your senses.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21. Someone close to you may need help. Be supportive and understanding, but don't offer more time, effort or cash than you can afford.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan 20. Don't let your emotions dictate your course. Acting on impulse will lead to trouble. Take your time or someone will take offense.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb 18. Be proactive and improve your workplace. You'll be rewarded for helping a co-worker solve a troubling problem. Be humble.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20. Love is in the air. Improve your self-esteem, indulge in a small pleasure. Prove to your partner that he or she is still first in your heart. BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Sudoku: Easy and hard

		2			1		4	3
		3			5	9		
8		6			9		2	
			5		7	8	6	
				3				
	5	8	6		4			
	2		1			6		4
		7	9			2		
6	1		7			3		

		3		6			2	
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5		2	6		7			
			9	5	3			
			2		1	3		5
	8		1	7	2			9
	4					1		
	1			3		2		

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Letters

McCutcheon equals corruption

Free speech in America just got a whole lot more expensive. First it was Citizens United v. FEC, declaring corporations to be people with the right to spend as they please in our election campaigns. Now we have McCutcheon v. FEC, removing all restrictions on individual campaign giving. Keep in mind that most states elect their judges, so it is not just our voting booths but our court houses that are now up for sale to those with the deepest pockets. If the Supreme Court is correct, and money is as good as speech, well, corporations and wealthy individuals can now speak louder and longer than the rest of us, and right into the ears of those in power. Just this week, 13 Wisconsin communities voted overwhelmingly for what the vast majority of Americans have already said they want: a Constitutional Amendment stating that corporations are not people and that money is not free speech.
SUZANNE SEARLE, VIA EMAIL

If money equals speech, than the 1 percent with the most money in this country will be able to drown out the speech of the 99 percent who have far less money to "speak" with. Is that fair? Is it really what our founders envisioned — that the rich should control the government? SHEREE SANO, VIA EMAIL

letters@metro.us

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

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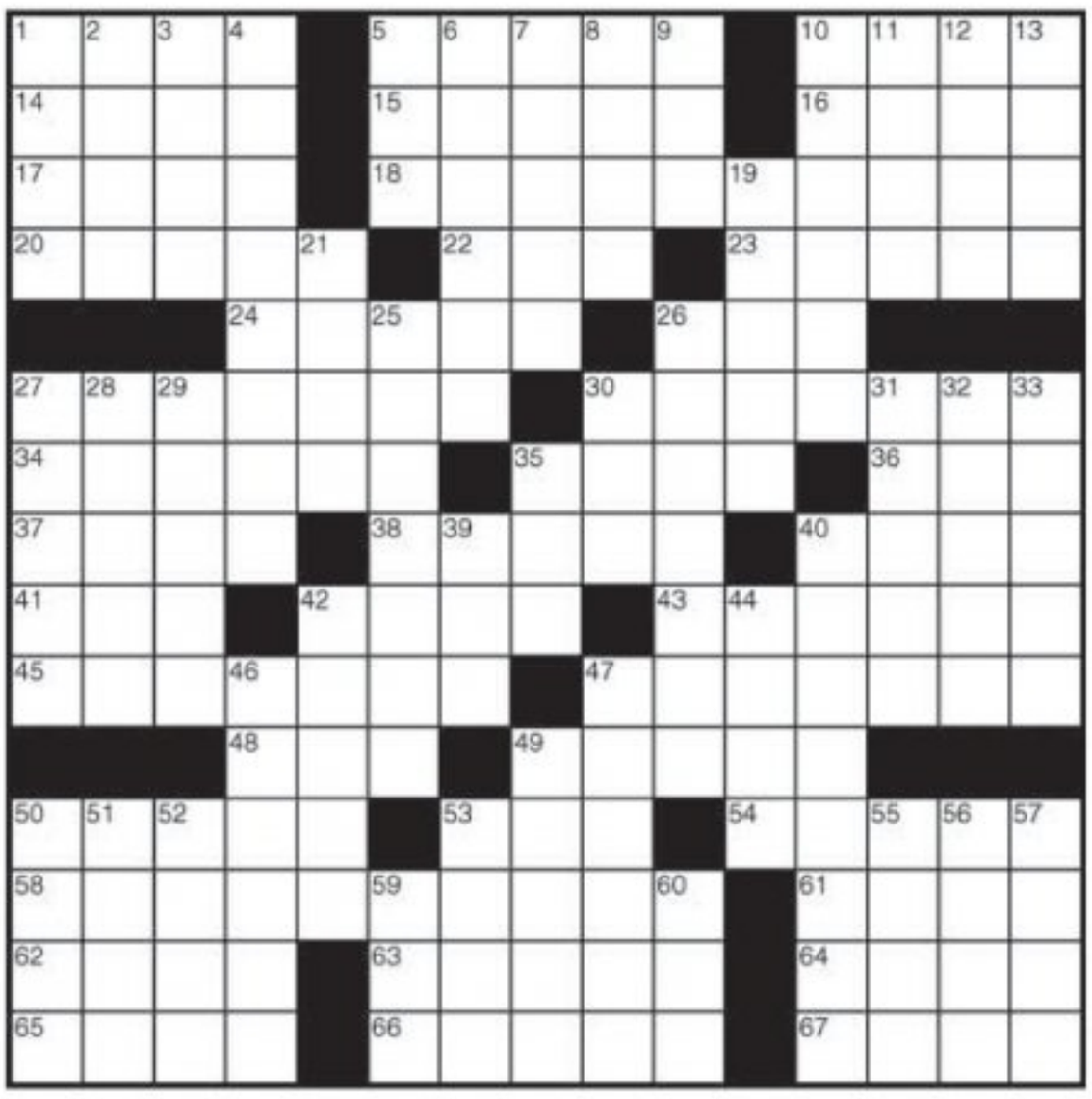
Crossword

Across
1 Selected a card
5 Body build
10 Jot down
14 Othello's foe
15 Sheba, today
16 Not include
17 Microbiology gel
18 Red tape, usually
20 Resulted in
22 Sort
23 — Fe Trail
24 Theater audience
26 "I've been —!"
27 Movies-to-be
30 Thick fog (2 wds.)
34 Omelet ingredient
35 Painter – Chagall
36 Ames inst.
37 Woosnam et al.
38 Make a beer last
40 Mask feature
41 "Bah!"
42 Concorde fleet of yore
43 Kind of scout
45 Torpor
47 Ritual
48 Call in sick
49 Indiana cager
50 Pine for
53 Rocker Eddie —Halen
54 Fencing weapons
58 Disloyalty opposite
61 "— never fly"
62 Novak and Basinger
63 Of time past
64 Repute
65 Straphanger's lack
66 Knock it off
67 Look radiant

Down
1 Gauge
2 Storm about
3 Major Hoople's word
4 Notable ones
5 Murphy Brown show
6 Derelict
7 Not skimpy
8 Unassuming
9 Wrap up
10 Tent dwellers
11 Eclipse, to an ancient
12 Salon rinse
13 "Butch Cassidy" role
19 Sir — Newton
21 "Sorry!"
25 Piece of cutlery
26 Unorthodox one
27 UFO flick (hyph.)
28 Mountain range
29 Ms. Zellweger
30 — de deux
31 Fuel tanker
32 Taking advantage of
33 Pipe sealer
35 Half a couple
39 Ms. Hagen of films
40 Soup eater's no-no
42 Itch
44 Fit to — —
46 Least common
47 Long spears
49 Bamboo muncher
50 Gabs
51 Newsman — Abel
52 Mme. Gluck
53 Glen or dale
55 Footnote abbr. (2 wds.)
56 Red Muppet
57 Multitude
59 Sochi org.
60 Hydrocarbon suffix

Weekend's answer



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3 SPORTS

With Sixers in flux, Young is their rock

NBA. Through thick and thin, 76ers forward Thaddeus Young has been a proven leader.

Twenty-two different players have suited up in a 76ers uniform this season.

Coaches have come and gone in recent years.

Through it all, Thaddeus Young has remained with the franchise. His work ethic, consistency, resilience and character are everything that any team would want in a player. He has become the longest-tenured player on the squad, which is rather amazing.

Young lifted the Sixers into the Eastern Conference semifinals, where they lost to the Boston Celtics in a gut-wrenching seven-game series two years ago. And he has suffered through the team's league-tying 26-game losing streak this season.

Young remains unfazed. He just goes out and plays as hard as he possibly can every single night.

"I'm a professional and that's the way you need to handle your business," Young said recently.

"You can't go out and give a half-hearted effort. I worked so hard to get here and will always carry myself that way."

Since Evan Turner and Spencer Hawes were dealt at the trade deadline, Young has elevated his level of play and become a true leader in every sense. His production is up virtually across the board, and so is his intensity.

During pregame introductions, Matt Cord announces Young's name last. With that comes added responsibility.

"I've always played with a high level of energy, but this season has been kind of crazy with all the moves and all the young guys," Young said. "I've tried to take that role as a team leader and do everything I can. I've been a little more vocal at times. I'm a competitor and don't like to lose, but I think we all understand the plan of building for the future. As long as I'm here, I'm going to take as much as possible on my shoulders to lead."

When the regular season ends and the playoffs begin, Young will take a well-deserved amount of time to rest. He'd rather be playing, but it won't happen this season.

"It is what it is," Young said. "The season has been pretty crazy and we'll see what happens down the road in the draft and free agency."

Young is averaging 18 points and six rebounds per game. / GETTY IMAGES

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MLB. Phillies opener postponed, rotation will be switched up

Kendrick will start the Phillies home opener Tuesday. / GETTY IMAGES

With a terrible forecast Monday and a planned off-day immediately following, the Phillies decided to swap their opener to Tuesday in order to create better playing conditions and a better environment for the pomp and circumstance of opening day.

The first pitch for the Phillies and Kyle Kendrick will be at 4:05 p.m., instead of the 3:05 p.m. originally scheduled.

The team said gates will open at 1:35 p.m. and the broadcast will be on NBC 10.

A similar situation arose in 1996, when the Phillies postponed a game at Veterans Stadium against the Rockies for one day.

The day off is a mixed bag for the Phillies. On the one hand, it gives them an extra day to recover from Sunday's blowout loss in Chicago.

On the other, it creates a tough situation for the Phillies and their starting pitching staff. Due to the swap of off days, the Phillies will need a fifth starter Saturday, one day earlier than anticipated.

Kendrick will take the hill for the opener Tuesday, followed by Roberto Hernandez and then the top of the rotation Thursday and Friday with Cliff Lee and A.J. Burnett on regular rest.

Hamels pitches

Hamels gets closer to MLB season debut

Cole Hamels threw four innings in Clearwater today and is reportedly two more minor league appearances away from being major league ready.

The left-hander allowed three hits and two runs and even threw some more in a bullpen session afterward. METRO

But then Saturday, Kendrick will be a day short of his usual spot with regards to regular rest.

David Buchanan is the top candidate to fill the No. 5 spot in the rotation, but he is due to pitch Tuesday for Triple-A Lehigh Valley.

If he were to pitch for the Phillies on Saturday, it would be on short rest. The club could take him out of his IronPigs' start early in order to preserve his arm. They could also call on Jonathan Pettibone, who started today in Lehigh Valley but struggled, allowing three runs on five hits in just four-plus innings.

EVAN MACY

Phillies fall

Cubs drub Phillies on getaway day

After so much went right for the Phillies in the first two games of a series against the Cubs this weekend, things went south on the south side of Chicago Sunday as the Phillies fell 8-3.

The Cubs, who earned just their second win of the season, sent eight batters to the plate in a four-run first frame against A.J. Burnett, and things never got closer for Philadelphia.

The Phillies can take pride in ending their six-game season-starting road trip with a respectable 3-3 mark, heading into a 10-game homestand Tuesday. EVAN MACY

The Phillies were victims of several unlucky breaks Sunday, Including Marlon Byrd getting forced out at home. / GETTY IMAGES

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Kentucky, UConn face off for title

NCAA. The Wildcats and Huskies will vie for an improbable championship tonight in Texas.

There has been a lot of history already made as Kentucky and UConn prepare to battle for an NCAA Championship.

It's the first time since 1966 that the two combatants for the title had both not appeared in the NCAA tournament at all the year before. It also represents the highest combined ranking of two finalists, by a sizable amount: Kentucky is a No. 8 seed, while UConn is No. 7.

And there seem to be two different approaches to Monday's game.

There's the mature, calculated guard play of Shabazz Napier and Ryan Boatright for UConn as head coach Kevin Ollie makes his first-ever NCAA tournament run.

And then there is freshmen-laden Kentucky, led by Julius Randle, playing for another one of John Calapari's one-and-done operations.

Three members of the Huskies roster, most notably Napier, were a part of the UConn championship team in 2011. Could that provide the edge?

The Wildcats lost to Connecticut in the 2011 semifinals and are 15-1 over their last three appearances in the most exciting tournament in sports.

Kentucky holds a three-point edge among oddsmakers, and judging from the performances of these two squads during the tournament to this point, three points could be the margin.

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